

SNOQUALMIE PASS LAND CONVEYANCE ACT

JULY 23, 2007.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. RAHALL, from the Committee on Natural Resources,
submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 1285]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Natural Resources, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 1285) to provide for the conveyance of a parcel of National Forest System land in Kittitas County, Washington, to facilitate the construction of a new fire and rescue station, and for other purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with an amendment and recommend that the bill as amended do pass.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Snoqualmie Pass Land Conveyance Act”.

SEC. 2. LAND CONVEYANCE, NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LAND, KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON.

(a) CONVEYANCE REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall convey, without consideration, to the King and Kittitas Counties Fire District #51 of King and Kittitas Counties, Washington (in this section referred to as the “District”), all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to a parcel of National Forest System land in Kittitas County, Washington, consisting of approximately 1.5 acres within the SW¼ of the SE¼ of section 4, township 22 north, range 11 east, Willamette meridian, for the purpose of permitting the District to use the parcel as a site for a new Snoqualmie Pass fire and rescue station.

(b) REVERSIONARY INTEREST.—If the Secretary determines at any time that the real property conveyed under subsection (a) is not being used in accordance with the purpose of the conveyance specified in such subsection, all right, title, and interest in and to the property shall revert, at the option of the Secretary, to the United States, and the United States shall have the right of immediate entry onto the property. Any determination of the Secretary under this subsection shall be made on the record after an opportunity for a hearing.

(c) SURVEY.—If necessary, the exact acreage and legal description of the lands to be conveyed under subsection (a) shall be determined by a survey satisfactory to the Secretary. The cost of a survey shall be borne by the District.

(d) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary may require such additional terms and conditions in connection with the conveyance under subsection (a) as the Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of H.R. 1285 is to provide for the conveyance of a parcel of National Forest System land in Kittitas County, Washington, to facilitate the construction of a new fire and rescue station.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

The Snoqualmie Pass Fire and Rescue Station serves King and Kittitas Counties Fire District #51. Fire District #51 is managed by a three-person Board of Commissioners elected by the voters of Snoqualmie Pass. The Fire District consists of 24 volunteer firefighter/EMT's that service a community of 350 full-time residents.

Snoqualmie Pass Fire and Rescue currently operates a fire and rescue station on National Forest System property, at a facility that they lease from the Forest Service. The leased facility was built in the 1930's as a maintenance shed for the Department of Transportation. The current facility has numerous deficiencies such as a non-compliant electrical system and no smoke alarm or sprinkler system.

Snoqualmie Pass Fire and Rescue was approached last year by the Forest Service to ask if they would be interested in purchasing the land that the fire and rescue station currently sits on. Because they find the current facility to be inadequate, they instead are asking to have a separate 1.5 acre parcel conveyed to them in order to build a new fire and rescue station. Snoqualmie Pass Fire and Rescue also lacks the funding to purchase the parcel in question.

There were efforts in the past to resolve this matter administratively through selling one acre of a three acre tract to Snoqualmie Pass Fire and Rescue using the Townsite Act (Public Law 85-569) but those efforts never came to fruition due to funding constraints of Snoqualmie Pass Fire and Rescue. The 1.5 acres in question are currently being used as a parking lot.

H.R. 1285, as amended, conveys approximately 1.5 acres of National Forest System lands in the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest in Kittitas County, Washington, to facilitate the construction of a new fire and rescue station. H.R. 1285 also specifies that if the property conveyed is not being used in accordance with the purpose of the conveyance, the property shall revert back to the United States.

COMMITTEE ACTION

H.R. 1285 was introduced on March 1, 2007, by Representative Doc Hastings (R-WA). The bill was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and within the Committee to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands. On April 17, 2007, the Subcommittee held a hearing on the bill. At the Full Committee markup on June 28, 2007, the Subcommittee was discharged from further consideration of the bill.

National Parks, Forests and Public Lands Subcommittee Chairman Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ) offered an amendment to make a technical change to the map description and limit the acreage of the parcel being conveyed to 1.5 acres. The Grijalva amendment was adopted by voice vote. The bill, as amended, was then ordered favorably reported to the House of Representatives by voice vote.

COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Regarding clause 2(b)(1) of rule X and clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Natural Resources' oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in the body of this report.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States grants Congress the authority to enact this bill.

COMPLIANCE WITH HOUSE RULE XIII

1. **Cost of Legislation.** Clause 3(d)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires an estimate and a comparison by the Committee of the costs which would be incurred in carrying out this bill. However, clause 3(d)(3)(B) of that rule provides that this requirement does not apply when the Committee has included in its report a timely submitted cost estimate of the bill prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office under section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

2. **Congressional Budget Act.** As required by clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, this bill does not contain any new budget authority, spending authority, credit authority, or an increase or decrease in revenues or tax expenditures.

3. **General Performance Goals and Objectives.** This bill does not authorize funding and therefore, clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives does not apply.

4. **Congressional Budget Office Cost Estimate.** Under clause 3(c)(3) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee has received the following cost estimate for this bill from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office:

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H.R. 1285 would provide for the conveyance, without consideration, of 1.5 acres of Forest Service land to the King and Kittitas Counties Fire District #51. The land would be available only to the fire district to be used to construct a new firehouse. Based on information from the Forest Service, CBO expects that any cost to the government of implementing this legislation would not be significant. Enacting H.R. 1285 would not affect direct spending or revenues.

H.R. 1285 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

The staff contact for this estimate is Tyler Kruzich. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

COMPLIANCE WITH PUBLIC LAW 104-4

This bill contains no unfunded mandates.

EARMARK STATEMENT

H.R. 1285 does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e) or 9(f) of rule XXI.

PREEMPTION OF STATE, LOCAL OR TRIBAL LAW

This bill is not intended to preempt any State, local or tribal law.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

If enacted, this bill would make no changes in existing law.

